

SITUATION REPORT NO. 10
INCIDENT NO. 97-015
DATE: APRIL 2, 1997 TIME: 12:00 P.M.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flood statewide.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: As warmer temperatures and brisk winds of April 1 contributed to increased spring runoff, gauging stations along tributaries of the Red River of the North showed rapid rises during the past 24 hours. The Sheyenne River, which feeds into the Red River near Fargo, experienced significant rises of up to nearly five feet. A rise of 2.88 feet pushed the river above its 12-foot flood stage at Cooperstown, where the level was recorded at 14.2 feet. Flood of record is 18.69 feet. Downstream at Lisbon, where the river is already above its 11-foot flood stage, a rise of 3.02 feet placed the river at 15.4 feet. The largest rise occurred at Kindred, where the river reached 12.59 feet on April 2, 4.68 feet above the previous day's level. Flood stage at Kindred is 16 feet.

The Wild Rice River, another Red River tributary, rose 4.14 feet at Abercrombie during the past 24 hours. The river's level was more than six feet below its flood stage. The Goose River at Hillsboro, however, exceeded its seven-foot flood stage when a 4.07-foot rise placed the river at 9.21 feet on April 2.

The Maple River, another Red River tributary, continued its climb above flood stage at Enderlin, the result of an ice jam upstream from the Ransom County city. The river at Enderlin rose to 12.81 feet on April 2; flood stage is six feet. The National Weather Service expects the river to continue its rise to 14 feet, 1.4 feet below its 1975 flood of record level.

A rising Red River of the North may reach its 10-foot flood stage at Wahpeton by late April 2. The river had risen .74 feet during the past 24 hours to 8.58 feet. Weather Service flood forecasts call for the river to rise to 18.5 feet at Wahpeton, slightly more than one-half foot above its 1989 flood of record.

In western North Dakota, the Souris River was expected to crest near Sherwood at 20 feet; flood stage is 18 feet. The river contains ice at downstream locations, which when combined with logs and debris, could cause jams and increasing river levels.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from the first report.

STATE: No change from the first report.

FEDERAL: No change from the first and second reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: No change from previous reports.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) upgraded operations on dike construction for the city of Enderlin to round-the-clock work in response to a rising Maple River. Other USACE flood preparedness projects underway include: dike construction for the city of Fort Ransom; levee construction for the city of Harwood; levee construction outside floodways for the city of Wapeton; dike construction and ditch clearing and snow and ice removal work at the English Coulee Diversion for the city of Grand Forks; construction of a dike in the city of Pembina's south side; and realignment work on dikes for the city of Drayton.

The N.D. Highway Patrol and the N.D. Department of Transportation (N.D. DOT) are developing plans to divert traffic to alternate highways if flood waters inundate the interstate system. The N.D. DOT will post weight limit signs, and the Highway Patrol will enforce an 80,000-pound restriction. This weight restriction will help preserve the integrity of alternate routes. The N.D. Motor Carriers Association and the Montana Gross Vehicle Weight Division will notify motor carriers about the planned restriction.

N.D. National Guard helicopter crews by late April 1 had used sand from 4,324 60-pound sandbags to ice dust 13 miles of the Red River of the North. Efforts were to continue April 2, depending on weather conditions.

North Dakota's congressional delegation hosted flood preparedness meetings on April 1 in Fargo, Grand Forks and Devils Lake. Participants included the N.D. State Water Commission, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the N.D. Division of Emergency Management and the USACE.

In Emmons County, highway crews have flagged more than 30 sites where washouts have occurred and culverts have been undermined.

In Fargo, an emergency ditch clearing effort took place on March 30 and March 31 after a drain that enters the Red River backed up and threatened the city of Reiles Acres and parts of Fargo.

Two Grand Forks television stations will produce a flood preparedness film for homeowners, outlining measures they can take to protect their property. The film will be aired periodically on Grand Fork's community access station.

The city of Grafton and Walsh County have opened an Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which will be staffed from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. The USACE is coordinating its levee construction efforts from the EOC. In other action, the county has distributed 200,000 sandbags and sand to rural residents. The city of Grafton has filled nearly 40,000 sandbags, and the city of Minto has filled 30,000 sandbags.

The Ward County Commission has declared a flood emergency. Since late February, 19 counties, 31 cities and one township have issued emergency declarations. Officials for eight counties and three cities have signed disaster declarations.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER: The Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports for the spring flood, Devils Lake flood and winter storm are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is: "<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>".

Raymond J. Staiger, Acting State Director